

WNPS South Sound Chapter Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 20, 2016

Brookreson House, 702 Columbia Ave, Fircrest

The meeting was called to order at 1:05pm by Bill Brookreson. Board members present were Bill Brookreson, Jane Ely, Cyndy Dillon, John Neorr, Bonnie Blessing-Earle, and Sharon Bergquist-Moody

Minutes of the previous meeting:

Minutes of the previous November 22, 2015 meeting were approved. It was noted that in the minutes under additions the 2016 budget had been approved by the board via email after the November 22 meeting.

There was discussion about the length of time between meetings without approval of the minutes. We agreed to approve the minutes of the meeting via email within 10 days after the meeting and then Lee would be able to post them.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Ely submitted clear and complete financial reports. Thank you Jane. There was discussion about spending some money for restoration rather than just for education. Anytime we spend money more than \$500 we have to get approval from the state NPS board. We always need to be aware of the potential for conflict of interest when reimbursing folks, board members in particular, for projects. We can pay mileage to volunteers, including board members for work on projects at the current rate. We should bring this up at the next Board meeting and clarify what we pay for mileage.

Chair's report:

Bill submitted written reports concerning State Board items, his activities in the wider community as chair, and activities directly relating to the chapter.

Bill thinks we should ask Frederica Bowcutt if she would like a reception or more books purchased at the rollout of her book *Vascular Plants of the South Sound Prairies*. The book will be sold at the Evergreen book store and some sold at the rollout. It won't be printed until April 1st so we cannot view it now. Bill made a motion to give her \$500 to spend on what helps the most. This was seconded, and approved. Monday June 13th Frederica will also present and have books for sale at the Capitol Museum.

Bonnie thinks NPS needs to lead the way on which native plants provide habitat for endangered wildlife. She would like Bill to present the list she currently has to Wildlife Stewards at his presentation April 12th. Are there other things we can do as an organization to make this connection for the wider community?

There was discussion that our booth is missing games for kids to experience native plants. East Olympia Grade School is looking for such activities.

At the state level there was discussion about not printing *Douglasia* to save \$12,000 yearly. Bill thinks we will need to replace it with some other means of communicating with our members. Any new method will need to involve up-to-date information. Questions that remain are who will keep this updated information and how will it be disseminated. We discussed placing the *Douglasia* online, but not all members are connected to the internet.

Update on Stewardship Program:

Jim Evans was unable to attend the board meeting but he submitted a report covering his activities developing the *Native Plant Stewardship Training- South Puget Sound Lowlands Spring 2016* course. He has developed a thorough curriculum with speakers, field trips, and an amazing resource list. Many thanks to Jim for his work on this project.

Cyndy shared with us that Master Gardeners will be able to take the classes as part of their training. Kerri Buckingham, Pierce County Master Gardener (MG) Coordinator, proposed establishing a Native Plant Specialist in the MG program similar to specialists they already have for community gardens and orchard trees. MGs taking the stewardship class would be able to count the training toward their annual Continuing Education requirement and their project hours toward their annual public contact requirements. Not only will this encourage MGs to participate in the stewardship program but it also supplies the MG program with expert native plant training so MG leaders don't have to organize this themselves. Their only concern is that the program won't continue annually so may be unavailable for MGs in the future.

Program report:

John submitted a complete program report concerning upcoming events and future speakers for next fall.

John would like to ask a few members to attend a dinner with Andy MacKinnon prior to his presentation on Mycoheterotrophs , April 11th , at The Evergreen State College Recital Hall. A motion was made and seconded to go ahead.

We will have a roll out picnic at the Dupont Powderworks park on the second Mon. or Wed. of September depending what date Bill can reserve.

State Fair:

The Washington State Fair will be 21 days long this year, Sept. 2-25. Should we pursue sharing the booth with another organization and then materials would be there all the time? The

Center for Natural Lands Management would be a good partner, someone who doesn't now have a booth. John will pursue this.

Grants:

John reported that the Coastal Interpretive Center at Ocean Shores signed their \$450 grant. John would like to see restoration grants. \$1000 is still available for grants. Bill will donate Hall's Asters that we cannot sell for the Boze Elementary School project. Bees and Butterflies like this aster.

Thurston Conservation District AmeriCorps did a great job organizing the kid's planting activity at their Native Plant Sale, thus completing their grant project. They sent pictures that would be great to share with our membership. Also, it would be good to have them give a short presentation at the beginning of a meeting.

Evergreen State College Scholarship:

John is close to finishing work on the scholarship. He shared copies of the Evergreen Scholarship forms with us. This has been quite a process and we thank him for all of his persistence in making this happen. This will be a positive and on-going relationship with the college.

Education Committee:

Jane was unable to attend the board meeting but she presented a written report. We thank Jane for her continued work with Boze and Purdy Elementary Schools.

Hikes and Volunteers:

Cyndy submitted a list of activities completed and planned. She resubmitted a revised list after getting more information and the new version will be posted. We have many members and new folks involved in various activities, thanks Cyndy.

Newsletter and Website:

Lee was unable to attend the board meeting but we certainly appreciate his ongoing work posting the newsletter and updating the website.

Bill is working on the newsletter. John thinks pictures of the grants should be included in the next newsletter.

Plant Sale Status Report:

Bonnie and Bill submitted written reports. Bonnie and Bill will be picking up more plants for the April sale. Bill will get the sale permit. Jane E. will get the credit card machine. John is making

picture signs and Bill has some in his garage. Bill will rent a van for moving plants from his place and Montagues. Volunteers are stepping up to help with the sale. Volunteers should come in about 9:30-10 the Friday before the sale. Bill will set up the tables about 8:00 am.

Fall Elections – nominating committee:

Cyndy agreed to head up this committee. She received confirmation from some board members that they would be willing to serve another year. Several needed to wait a few more months before committing.

Other Business:

It is to be noted that at our January meeting we recognized our vice president Bonnie Blessing-Earle for receiving her Master's Degree in Environmental Science from the Evergreen State College. Thank you to Bonnie for all of her work with the NPS, expertise, help with the plant sales, and her general knowledge of native plants that she shares with the organization.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be August 14, 2016 at the home of Bill Brookreson.

We will discuss whether or not to donate to the UW Herbarium towards the revision of "Flora of the PNW".

Clarify what we pay for mileage reimbursement.

Adjourned: 3:25pm

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Bergquist-Moody, Secretary